

## Penny pinching at dump will be at environment's expense — Johnson

By ROB KELLY

Councillor Bill Johnson was on the warpath Monday night at municipal council, but he was railing against decisions that for the most part had already been made. He was angry about these things — actions taken regarding the Halton regional landfill in Milton, hunting in the area forests and strip mining permit renewals.

Mr. Johnson was upset about Halton Region balking at a condition of the landfill approval stipulated by the Ministry of the Environment — that a liner beneath the bottom of the dump. The Region has decided to install such a liner only if low proves necessary once excavations have begun for the landfill. A liner would cost, at a conservative estimate, hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Johnson, also a regional councillor, has been outvoted on the matter at regional council but that didn't stop him from venting his feelings Monday.

Mr. Johnson said it's "absolute bloody nonsense" to expect the dump won't leak toxic liquids without a liner. "You know it and I know it," he told fellow councillors.

Regional "bureaucrats intend to penny pinch" on dump construction by keeping the liner, Mr. Johnson contended. While stating that he is in favour of effective cost control, he added, "not at the expense of the environment."

Regarding strip mining permits, Mr. Johnson complained that town councillors "will have no say in what happens" at the various quarries surrounding Milton.

Periodically, quarries file site plans

with the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources. The plans, among other things, indicate how they propose to rehabilitate their mining sites once all the economically available stone has been extracted. The site plan updates are beginning now.

Municipalities with substantial quarrying operations, like Milton, want more input on these rehabilitation plans. The matter is under discussion with the Ministry of Natural Resources. Milton planning director Bob Zaslanyi was not overly optimistic about getting substantial local input with the Ministry. "The door is open a crack," he said.

Councillor Johnson, however, obviously feels the door is being slammed in his face. There is "nothing new" in the Province's position, Mr. Johnson said. "It's all nice PR (public relations)." But later, "it all goes down the drain."

Mr. Johnson has long been critical of the Province when it comes to open pit mining.

He has slammed the Ministry of Natural Resources because he sees the Ministry as being entirely too cozy with mining interests.

Given government cooperation, Mr. Johnson said, "rehabilitation plans can be changed at the stroke of a pen."

The councillor, a longstanding member of the New Democratic Party, criticized Premier Bob Rae for not dismissing some senior civil servants in both the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

"I think Mr. Rae erred. He should have cleaned up the top bureaucracy."



Photo by JOHN WHITEN  
This appreciator of fine art is starting young. Douglas Orr was among the crowd at a fund-raising art sale sponsored by the United Church Women of Ebenezer Church in Nassagaweya.

## Artists and church win at Nassagaweya sale

Organizers of the second annual Nassagaweya Art Show and Sale say the event's success will make a substantial contribution to the Ebenezer New Addition Fund.

The total amount of funds raised from the sale Friday and Saturday at Nassagaweya Community Centre was not in at press time, but it is expected to be higher than last year. Proceeds will go toward building an addition to Ebenezer United Church that will accommodate community programs.

Awards of merit were presented to selected artists for their work. Ursula Rose of Campbellville won first followed by John McCreary of Guelph, Roy Lefkewski of Guelph, Suzanne Myers of Burlington, and Barbara Ayers of Campbellville.

The work of Linda Kemp of Fenwick won the Best of Show. Door prizes were donated by the local merchants.

## Jelinek says Liberal Senators are wasting 'billions'

Oakville-Milton MP Otto Jelinek has lashed out at what has been until recent days the Liberal dominated Senate, saying that institution had been "denying the elected government its right to govern."

"In looking at the actions of the Liberal majority in the Senate over the years, you will find that no measure proposed by Liberal governments was contested between 1965 and 1984," said Mr. Jelinek, the federal revenue minister, in a press release late last week.

"Since then we have all witnessed perilous changes. Between 1984 and 1988, 27 bills took more than one month to pass in the Senate. Since 1988, 23 more bills were held up. I don't believe these are isolated incidents, but rather cynical political opportunism."

Senate interference in the Progressive Conservative agenda is "costing Canadians billions and billions of dollars," said Mr. Jelinek.

"For example, three financial bills currently being obstructed by the Senate will collectively add \$8.3 billion to the deficit or about \$640 per taxpayer, if not passed forthwith."

The bills address taxation rates for high income earners and corporations, government spending restraint laws and diverting money from unemployment insurance to job training, the minister said.

"These financial bills and the GST are key elements of the government's economic agenda," Mr. Jelinek said.

"The opposition we are witnessing by the Senate is indeed contrary to our system of government and, in these circumstances, the government has not only the right but the obligation to overcome this obstructionism."

Mr. Jelinek said constitutional experts "from across the country" agree with the government view that the Senate must bow to the wishes of the House of Commons.

Mr. Jelinek depicted the Progressive Conservative majority in the House as defenders of "our democratic system" in the face of Senate disruption.

"We will carry out that duty," he vowed.

## Region decides

## Johnson's vision of energy from dumps too costly

A new 4-million tonne dump being built in Milton is not likely to be a source of methane fuel, as Milton regional councillor Bill Johnson had hoped.

In a report to be presented at today's planning and public works committee, Halton public works director Bob Moore said although such systems have been employed at other locations, "the collection and use of landfill gases as a fuel resource is still in its infancy in terms of technology."

The "problems and cost of implementing these systems have limited their use."

As well, he said improved recycling efforts could cut into the gas production rate.

A detailed consultant's report on how best to

handle landfill gas is expected by November.

Another initiative raised by Mr. Johnson — the mining of old landfills — also received mixed feedback, with the staff report recommending it would only be practical if the waste had to be excavated for another reason.

One such reason might be to install new control systems for buried waste, such as drainage lines for "leachate" — the liquid formed when water mixes with waste. "In this case, it will make sense to recover easily recyclable material such as scrap metal."

"Some of the benefits of mining old landfills, he explained, are: Removal of potentially hazardous materials; recovery of recyclable materials such as

plastics and metals; and creation of additional landfill capacity.

While it sounds attractive, he assured there are several stumbling blocks.

A constraint with newer landfills is the generation of noxious odors.

And with older landfills, the problem is that they often weren't constructed under the same rigid conditions so their "continued use for new waste may not be desirable."

Also, he said that markets for relatively clean recyclable materials collected through the blue box program are tough to find, and that "it will be some time before there will be markets for 'mixed' recyclables."

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